Software Corner

Innovative Software Makes LCA Accessible to Everyone

PRé Consultants introduces SimaPro 4 for Windows: a new version of the most widely used Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) Software Tool currently available. The new version supports an innovative script language that allows non experts to use LCA data. This will open up the application of LCA and Ecodesign in many companies.

Life Cycle Assessment, or LCA, has become the standard approach to evaluate and compare the environmental properties of products. It is increasingly important for companies to use LCA because governments and consumers simply expect companies to pay attention to the environmental properties of their products. Furthermore, the EMAS, BS 7750 and ISO 14000 series demand continuous improvement of environmental management systems. LCA and its utilisation for product and/or process improvement is a logical next step to meet this demand.

Until now LCA software has mainly been used by experts to collect and analyse data. With the new SimaPro 4, this data can also be used by non experts using the Scripts in the program. The user only has to answer predefined questions in order to analyse or compare products. The questions can be programmed by the expert.

This feature is particularly useful for industry organisations, who want to share their data among their members or customers. The first users of this concept are: the Association of the Netherlands Cement Industries (VNC), the European Federation of Corrugated Cardboard Manufacturers (FEFCO) and the Dutch Research and Consultancy Organisation for Drinking Water Companies (KIWA NV).

For individual researchers there are also some important new features. All data is stored using the new internationally standardised SPOLD format, this has the added advantage of facilitating data exchange. Further, the new Swiss database from BUWAL has been included, containing up-to-date environmental information on the production and disposal of the most commonly used metals, plastics, cardboard, paper and other materials; also there is high quality data on transport and energy processes. The databases can be edited and expanded without limitation.

A free SimaPro 4 demo is available from PRé or can be downloaded from the internet at www.pre.nl.

For further information please contact: Pré Consultants B.V., Ms D. Hes, Plotterweg 12, 3821 BB Amersfoort, The Netherlands; phone +31 33 4555022, fax +31 33 4555024, e-mail info@pre.nl

Ecosite Corner

New at EcoSite, the World Wide Resource for LCA..........
http://www.ecosite.co.uk

Reports
- EcoSite's Guide to Design-for-Environment Tools
- EcoSite's LCA Software Buyer's Guide
- LCA Standards Report

Software
Demos and ordering details for leading LCA packages, including
- SimaPro
- LCAiT
- GaBi
- Euklid
- PEMS
- EcoScan

Headlines

- Wanna Win A Washing Machine?

Yes, you can win a washing machine from the UK Ecolabelling Board (UKEB), look at EcoSite or at *http://www.ecosite.co.uk/Ecolabel-UK/*

- Do You Have to be 'Down to Earth' to Win an Ecolabel?

The first manufacturer to be awarded the EU Ecolabel for laundry detergents is Reckitt & Colman for its Down to Earth (UK) and Maison Vert (France) powder.....

- Plastic Conversion Inventory Data Published in May 1997

APME has added another LCI to its arsenal. This one, report number 10, on Polymer Conversion covers three operations of plastics' conversion.......

For details on these and more..........
http://www.ecosite.co.uk